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THE
British SEAMAN'S
LETTER,

ADDRESS'D

To the Free-Holders, Voters, and all
the good Subjects of GREAT-
BRITAIN.

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To the Free-Holders, Voters, and all
the good Subjects of GREAT-
BRITAIN:

WITH

Some OBSERVATIONS on the
suspending of the TRIENNIAL
ACT.

From on Board the SOVEREIGN,
April the 17th, 1716.

L O N D O N:

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THE

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LETTER

BOOK

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the most complete and all



T H E

British SEAMAN's

LETTER.

Greeting you all most heartily,

O U T of a steady, unbiass'd,
generous, and sincere Love
of my Country, I presume,
at this Juncture, whilst
there are still amongst us some horrid
Remains

Remains of a late base, infamous, and treasonable Rebellion, which, as it was, at first, begun, and carry'd on, by bloody minded *Papists*, and *Jacobites*, at Home, spirited on, and supported by *Romish Votaries*, Slaves and Idolaters from Abroad, and is yet nurs'd and kept alive, upon the hopes of the like Springs, and Assistance for the future, to offer to your mature, deliberate Judgments, my honest, and worthy *Protestant Countrymen*, the following barefac'd, open-hearted Truths, and just Observations.

You can't but hear the daily Clamours, and villainous Suggestions of the *Popish Traiterous Faction* against the best of Kings, and most deserving Parliaments, and Ministry ; such, as at one and the same time, this Nation was hardly ever bless'd withal ; and
term

term His tender, and unprecedented Clemency, and Mercy, to the most evil, obnoxious, sanguinary Wretches that ever existed ; Monsters, taken in open Arms, in a concerted, grand Association, and Rebellion ; a Massacre, a delighting in Blood. Oh base, and ungrateful !

Was not the Design of these unnatural *Rebels* in favour of a most notorious *Impostor*, and *Popish Pretender* to the Crown, Dignity, and Government of the *British* Realms, a servile Slave to *Rome* and *France* ? And in order to Depose, and Murder our most sacred Sovereign, and Royal Family ? Root up, and totally to Extirpate our most Holy Church, the Darlings of Heaven, with all the worthy Members of the same, in manifest Violation of the many wholesome Acts of
Parli-

Parliament subsisting ? And what is extremely corrupt, and most detestably odious, hardly to be believ'd, but alas, too true ; that some Professors of, and Pretenders to this sacred, and National Establishment, belonging to *Rochester, Holbourn, Oxford, Tyburn, Newgate, the Tower, the Fleet and Sea ;* not that of which, I thank God, I am an honest Member, have principally, chiefly, and diligently stirr'd up, fomented, aided, countenanc'd, and abetted these damnable, curs'd Insurrections, and Rebellion with all their dire, and dreadful Consequences?

Was not the Design of these *Traytors* to undermine, and blow up the best constituted Government both in Church, and State, on Earth, that ever was fram'd by God and Man?

Was

Was not the Design to unravel the whole Texture of our Laws, sacred and political? To sink, and emerge our Liberties and Properties? Divest us of our Estates? Give up our Trade to foreign *Papists*? Reduce us to Want and Beggary? Force our Wives and Daughters? Massacre the Major Part, and leave the Remainder to the whole Enjoyment of Rags, and Wooden Shoes? All submitting to the infernal Rage of *French* Dragoons?

Sure, my brave Countrymen, you can't, but with the utmost Horror, and Dread, look back, and read the greatest, and most valuable Historians of the last Century, there you'll find above Two Hundred Thousand Protestants, without Distinction of Age, Sex, or Dignity, murder'd in cool Blood, by *Villains* of the same Stamp,

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same

same Principles, same Pretences with
 these late horrid *Rebels* ; and for no o-
 ther Reason, but because they were
 so ; even such as liv'd in Obedience
 to the Laws of the several Countries,
 where they resided, but in Point of
 Conscience, and for the Salvation
 of their Souls, neither cou'd, nor
 wou'd submit to *Popery, Tyranny, Ido-*
latry, and Superstition, Companions al-
 ways inseparable ; witness the bloody,
 barbarous and most flagitious Massa-
 cres of *Ireland, Paris, the Palatinate,*
 and the Hereditary Dominions of the
 Empire, with many others, not to
 mention the Blessed Martyrs in the
 Reign of the *Popish Queen Mary* here
 at Home ; the Thoughts of which
 only, must ever plunge the honest well-
 meaning Subject into the deepest Me-
 lancholy ; and to find that there shou'd
 be now amongst us base Men, en-
 deavour-

deavouring to bring upon us the like Woes, Cruelties, and Miseries, can't, I hope, but fire you with the warmest Resentments.

I must beg leave to observe to you, that Rewards and Punishments are the best and surest Support of the Body Politick; and, as it has been the fix'd Opinions of the greatest Divines and Statesmen; that Men may be guilty of such Crimes in this Life, as ought not to be forgiven here; I must plainly tell you, that all concern'd in the late Rebellion, against the present Legislature, are the highest Criminals of that kind; the Forgiveness of Injuries, personally transacted between Man and Man, is trivial, of a quite different and inferior Nature, no ways relative to the Case of these unnatural, rebellious

ous Delinquents; nay, I will venture to affirm the Maxim is justifiable, and good in many private Cases, such as in *Sodomy*, or where a brutal Father shall force, and enjoy the Body of his own natural Children, &c. in which, I think, no good Man, and Christian, can differ from me. And tho' these are hideous and shocking Sins, but what are they, when you compare them to this Rebellion? Every Musket was pointed at, and according to the known Tendency and Construction of the Law, with an intent to murder the blessed King, and glorious Family, and thereby destroy the State. Can any atrocious *Papist*, or *Jacobite*, be so corrupt, so harden'd, carry such a brazen Front, as even to insinuate, that the least Tenderness ought to be shown the Criminals, I have fairly describ'd; when

sure

sure no Man, tho' never so Vitious, dare openly, at least, assert, that the minutest Indulgence shou'd be shown to Delinquents, in the private Cases abovemention'd.

I must also observe to you, That the vulgar Notion of Mercy is false and erroneous ; it is in Compassion to the Innocent, that Laws are made to punish the Nocent ; and it is the highest Goodness and Mercy to the upright, when the Almighty is pleas'd so to destroy the Wicked, that no more just Men may fall through the Malice of their Hearts, and the Poison of their Lips. *King James the First*, when apply'd too, to pardon a Murderer, was pleas'd to make Answer, " That now the Guilt lay where it ought ; but shou'd he pardon him, and he repeat the Crime, it was his
" firm

“ firm Opinion, that the Guilt then
 “ wou’d lie at his Door ”. For a Man
 to say, that he is sorry such *Traytors*
 legally convicted are to die, is high-
 ly Absurd and Ridiculous ; he may,
 with equal Folly, say, that he is much
 concern’d, that ever wholesome Laws
 were enacted, than which, nothing
 wou’d be more stupid. This does
 not debar every good Man from show-
 ing a decent Contrition, that his Fel-
 low-Creature has merited the Penal-
 ty of those necessary good Instituti-
 ons ; political Forgiveness is in the
 Sovereign. But then suppose after an
 Amnesty, the present *Traytors* shou’d
 rebel again, at whose Door must the
 Unhappiness be ? Indeed, it’s true,
 that the Ignorant and Deluded can’t
 operate, when their Leaders and Se-
 ducers are no more, than the Body
 can act without the Head ; and for
 my

my part, I have good Nature enough to Compound for that, and no less, were it in my Power. These most execrable Miscreants, I hope, can't imagine in Reality, but some reasonable Atonement shou'd be made for Crimes of so deep a Die; some Satisfaction for the Blood of those gallant, brave Fellows, that at *Dunblain* and *Preston*, fell in the glorious Cause of God, their King, and Country, by the Hands of these *Rebels*; let them but consult the Widows and Fatherless, the Mothers and Fathers having lost their Sons, that they barbarously have occasion'd; let them compose their several *Furies*. Must an injur'd Prince, and People, have no Redress for the vast Sums expended, the Decay of Trade, and Confusion, for a while, it introduc'd? Can any Body suppose, that out of a Body of
about

about Twenty Thousand, such *Criminals*, a few *Calves-Heads*, to the *Northward*, and a brace of *Cods-Heads*, to the *Southward*, with the *Irish Head* upon *Temple-Bar*, of *Morrogan O Sullivan*, alias *Captain Silver*, are a sufficient Amends? Idle and preposterous! A Man may as rationally propose to satisfy the Nation's Debts, consisting of so many Millions Sterling, with a Bill of that Dog's, the *Pretender's*, endors'd by General *Mar*.

But before I leave you, pardon me, if I put you in Mind of an old *English Proverb*, viz. *When the Fox preaches, beware the Goose*. And I beg you to observe, how under the Pretence of Liberty and Property, as the *Papists* murder *Protestants* through religious Zeal, all the *Jacobites*, and dissaffected *Desperado's* are railing, and in-

inveighing against our Divine Legislature, upon the Introduction of a Bill, for a *pro tempore* Suspension of the *Triennial Act*. And take this as an unerring Standard with you, that whenever you find those *Traytors*, and their *Abettors*, convuls'd and dull, you have just Reason to be Gay and Chearful; and whenever they rejoyce, some Mischief is at Hand to all good Men.

The very Men I have been speaking of, even those, that, with all their Might, oppos'd this *Triennial Act*, when first brought into the House in the Reign of that Glorious Monarch King *William*, well knowing it wou'd effectually prevent the Return of King *James*, and *Popery*, &c, and *mutatis mutandis*, those same sort of *Gentry* oppose now as strenuously the Sus-

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pension of it, because it will strengthen our Alliances ; our Confederates will put an entire Confidence, and Trust in us ; our Trade will flourish ; all Hopes of the *Pretender*, and his *Adherents* will totally abate ; the Minds of the People be compos'd, and settl'd ; the Gentlemen, and Commonalty greatly eas'd from Expence, and Hurry ; much Confusion, and Tumults obstructed, with many other Advantages. But what may not a People reasonably expect from so Glorious a Monarch ? So wise, and honest a Ministry ? And from Two such unparalell'd Houses of Parliament ? I cou'd infinitely enlarge on this Occasion, and strictly keep within the bounds of Truth, but having already exceeded the usual length of a Letter, I can only assure you, that no Man living, loves, and honours the

King,

King, the Church of *England*, as by
Law establish'd, and my Country,
with more Zeal and Sincerity then,

Dear Countrymen,

Yours at all Commands,

E. L.

F I N I S.

King, the Church of England, as by
 Law established, and my Country,
 with more Zeal and Sincerity than

Dear Countrymen,

Yours in all Concerns,

E. L.

F I N I S



